



Grand Avenue Widening, Loop 303 to 99th Avenue

Public Open Houses

November 14 & 15, 2006





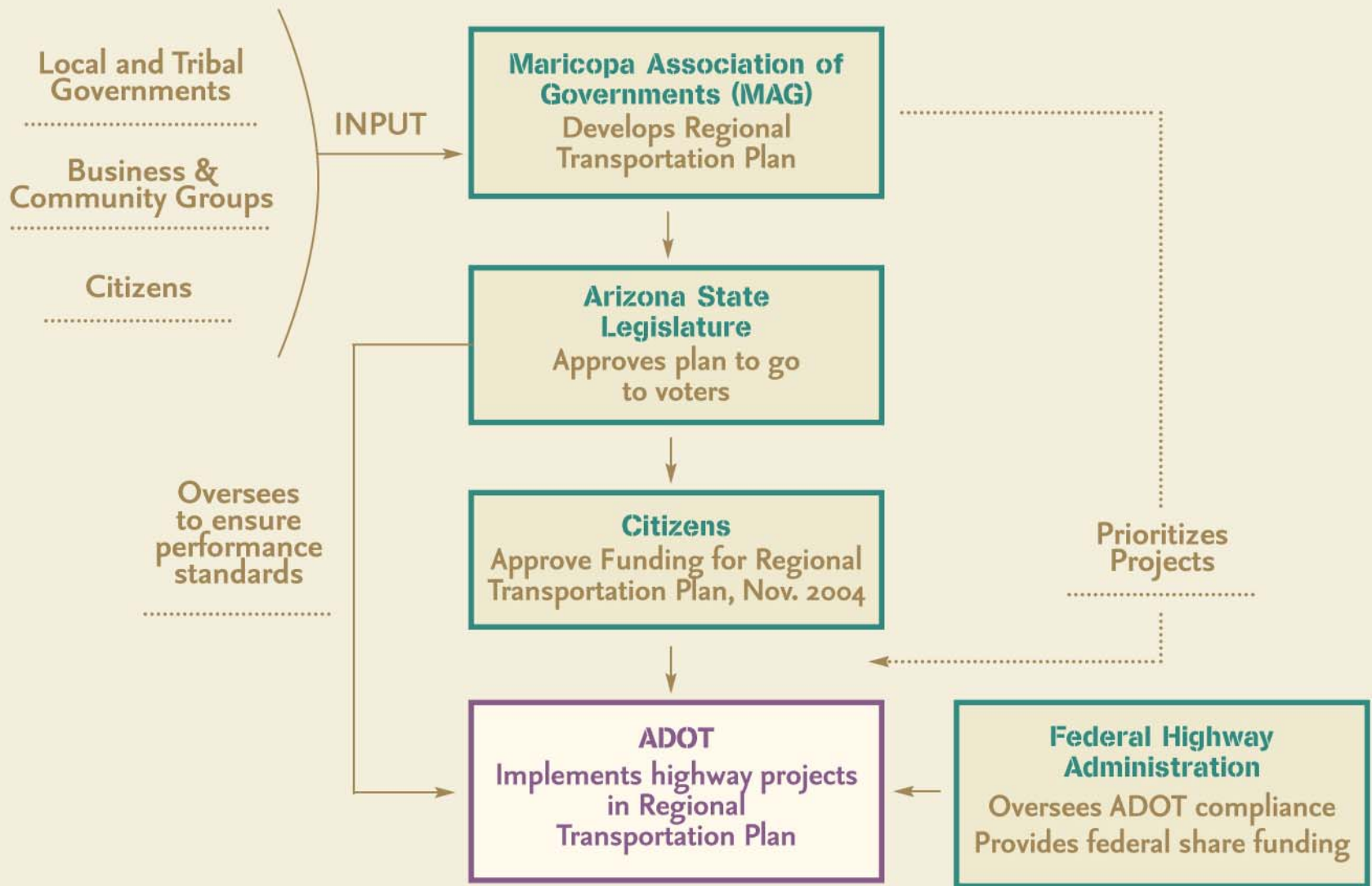
Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

- In 2003, Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) approved a \$15.8 billion Regional Transportation Plan
- In 2004, voters approved Proposition 400
 - Provided funding needed to implement the Regional Transportation Plan



What is the Regional Transportation Plan?

- A Partnership between ADOT, MAG, local cities, Valley Metro and Valley Metro Rail to:
 - Manage regional transportation programs
 - Coordinate project implementation
 - Develop finance strategies
 - Foster communication and public involvement linkages
 - Facilitate regional collaboration on transportation initiatives

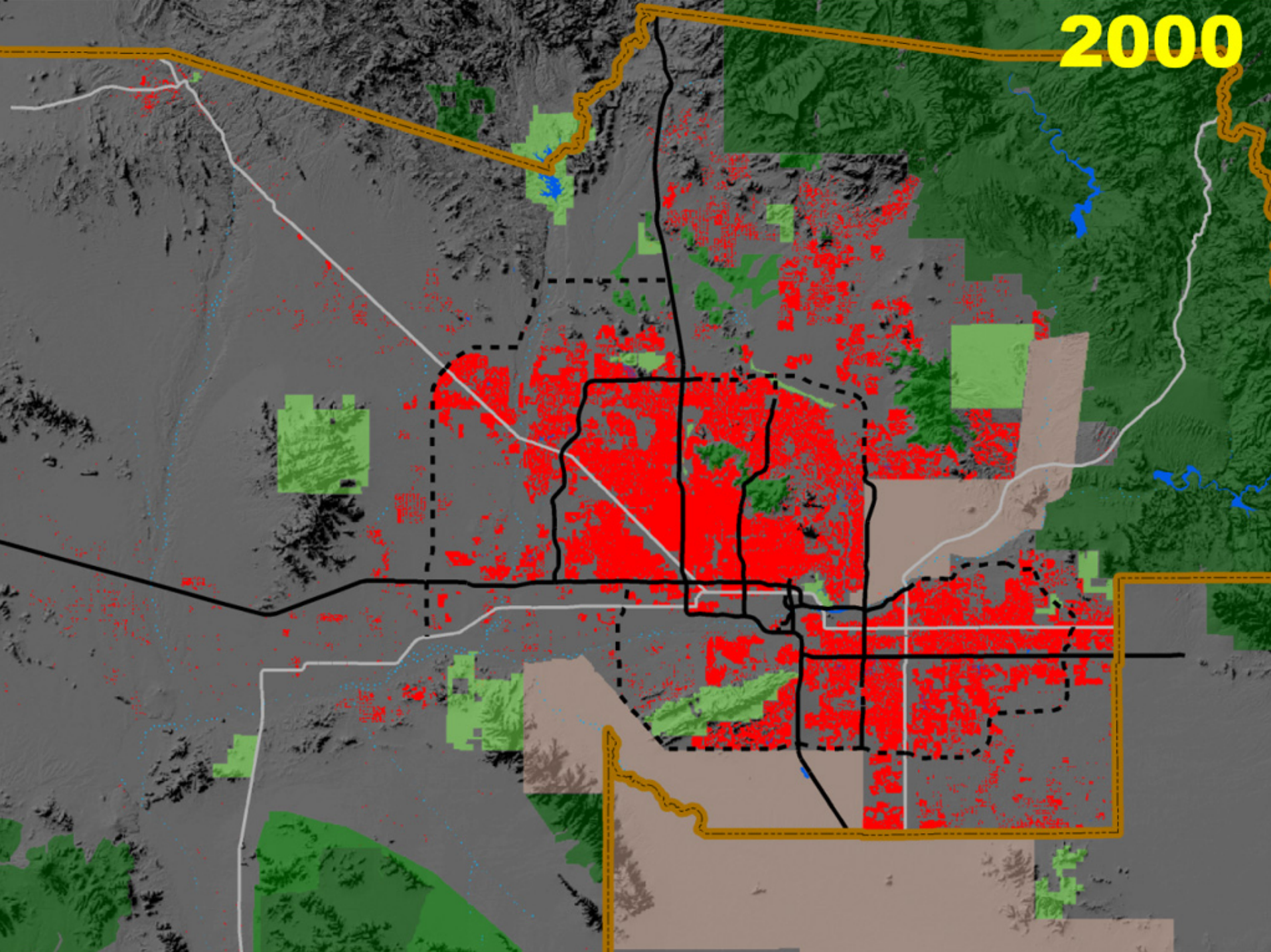




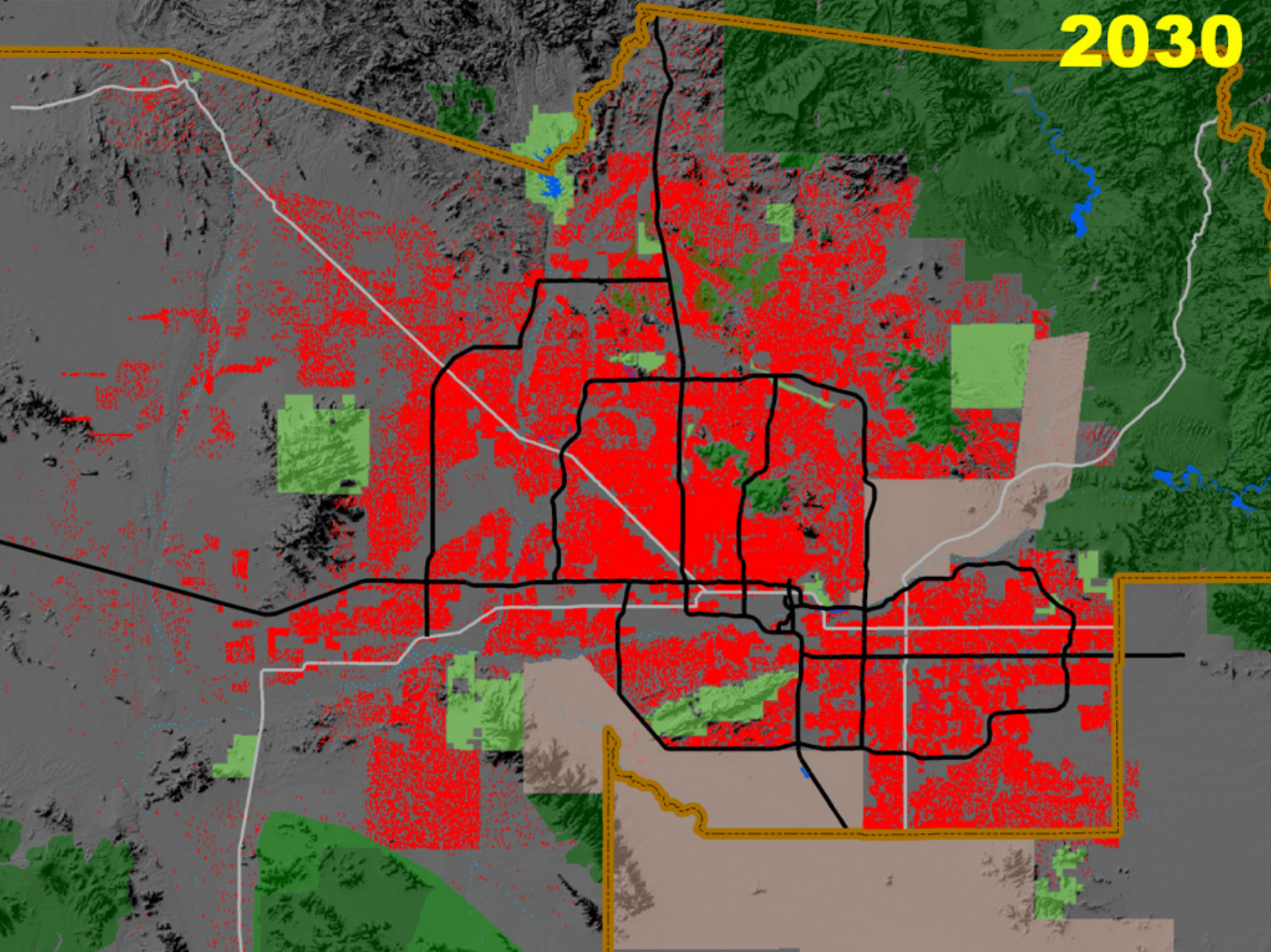
Why was a Regional Transportation Plan Needed?

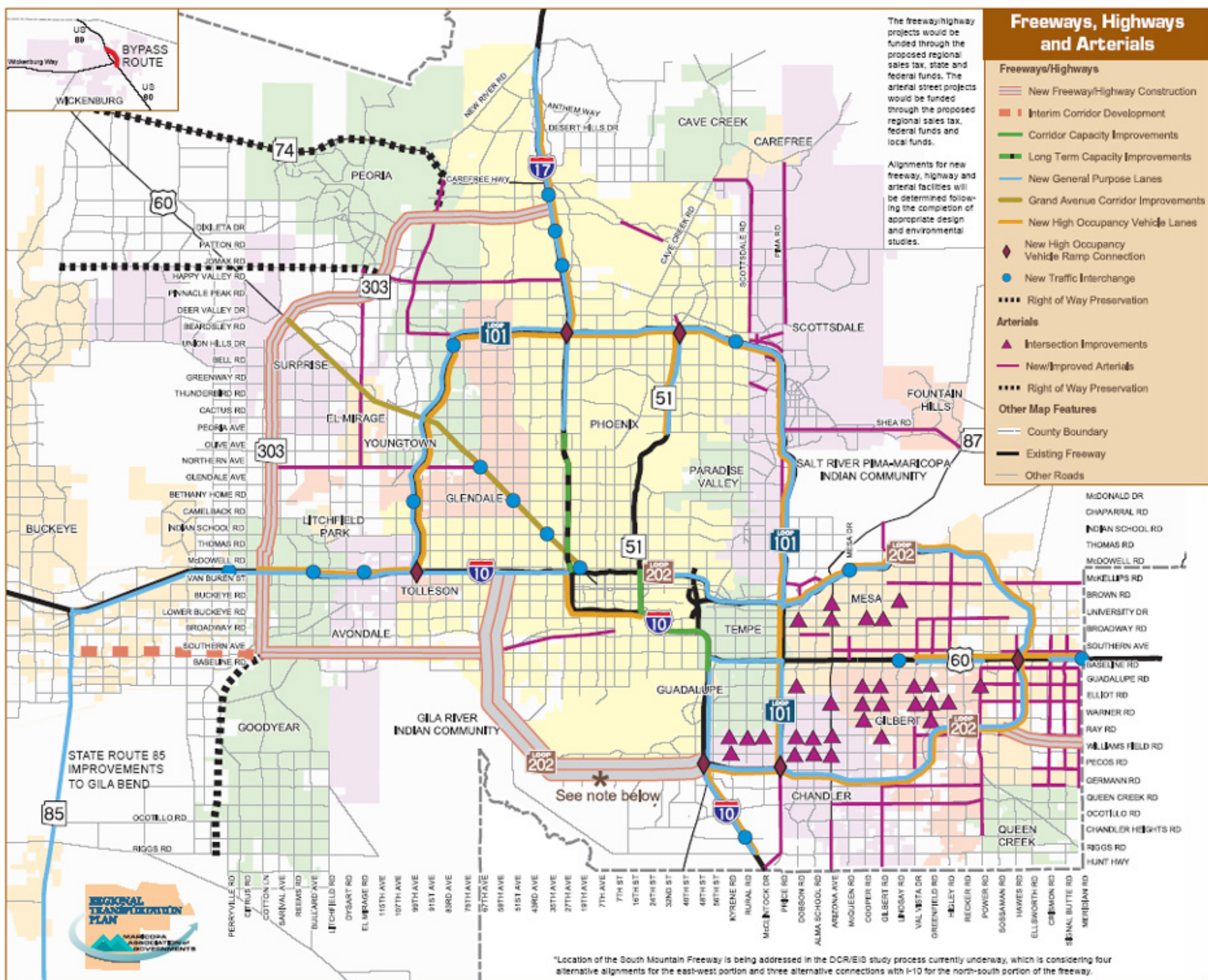
- To most efficiently pool and prioritize regional resources
- To get buy-in from all communities and agencies for a balanced program
- To meet ever-increasing mobility needs of the community resulting from explosive growth
 - Valley population projected to increase from 3.7 million to 5.7 million by 2025

2000



2030







Role of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Regional Council

MAG Regional Council consists of elected officials from 30 communities in Maricopa County:

- Conducts Regional Transportation Planning and developed Regional Transportation Plan
- Sets priorities for phasing and funding of projects
- Approves accelerations and cost changes to Regional Transportation Plan
- Approves Air Quality analysis on all regional transportation projects



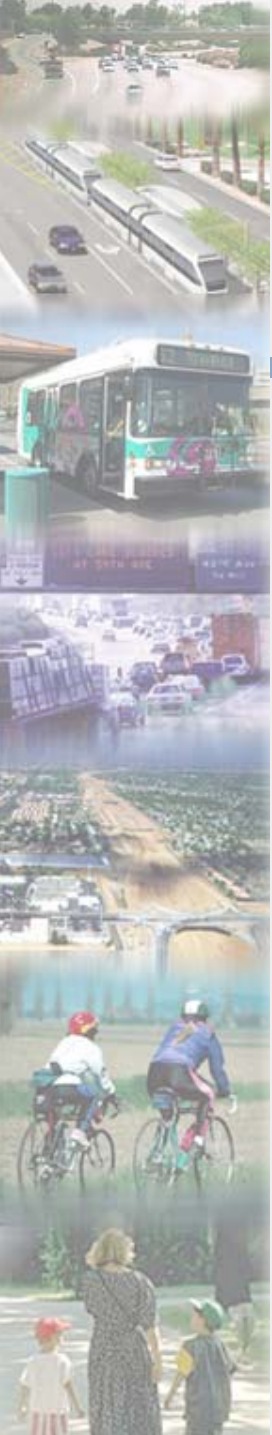
ADOT's Role: Deliver the Regional Transportation Plan Freeway Program

- Implements RTP Freeway Component
- Conducts environmental and engineering studies to evaluate projects
- Buys land for freeway routes and expansions
- Designs freeway improvements
- Builds and maintain freeway system
- Approves Regional Freeway enhancements



Managing the Existing Transportation System

- Population Growth
 - ADOT does not control development of land
 - ADOT cannot require developers to pay for roads
- Rising costs
- Environmental Issues/Studies
- Transit
- Role of other agencies
 - Federal Highway Administration
 - Local communities and county government



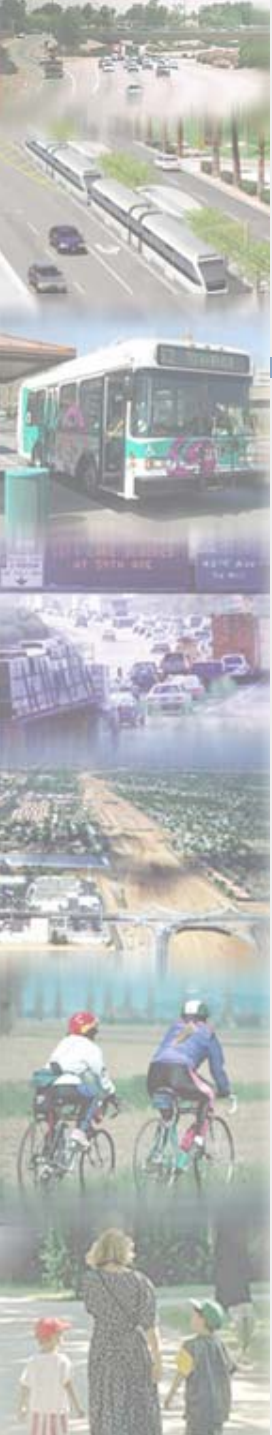
Grand Avenue Northwest Corridor Study

- Improvements included in RTP based on Study recommendations include:
 - Widen Grand Avenue ranked *Priority One*
 - Grade separations at El Mirage Rd. and 103rd Ave. ranked *Priority Three*
- Grand Avenue improvements included in RTP:
 - Widening to 6 lanes in Phase I (construct beginning 2009)
 - Additional improvements (could included the need for grade separations and ITS) in Phase II (construction scheduled for 2015)
- ADOT to initiate feasibility study of grade separated crossings* in 2007
 - *Examples: underpasses, overpasses, interchanges

Why Widen Grand Avenue?



- Primary urban arterial connecting:
 - Cities of Surprise and Peoria
 - Towns of El Mirage and Youngtown
 - Unincorporated communities of Sun City and Sun City West
- Vital link in statewide highway system
 - Will become more important as growth continues to the west and southwest
- Serves as link between Metro Phoenix and Las Vegas and I-15



Long-term Needs for Grand Avenue Corridor

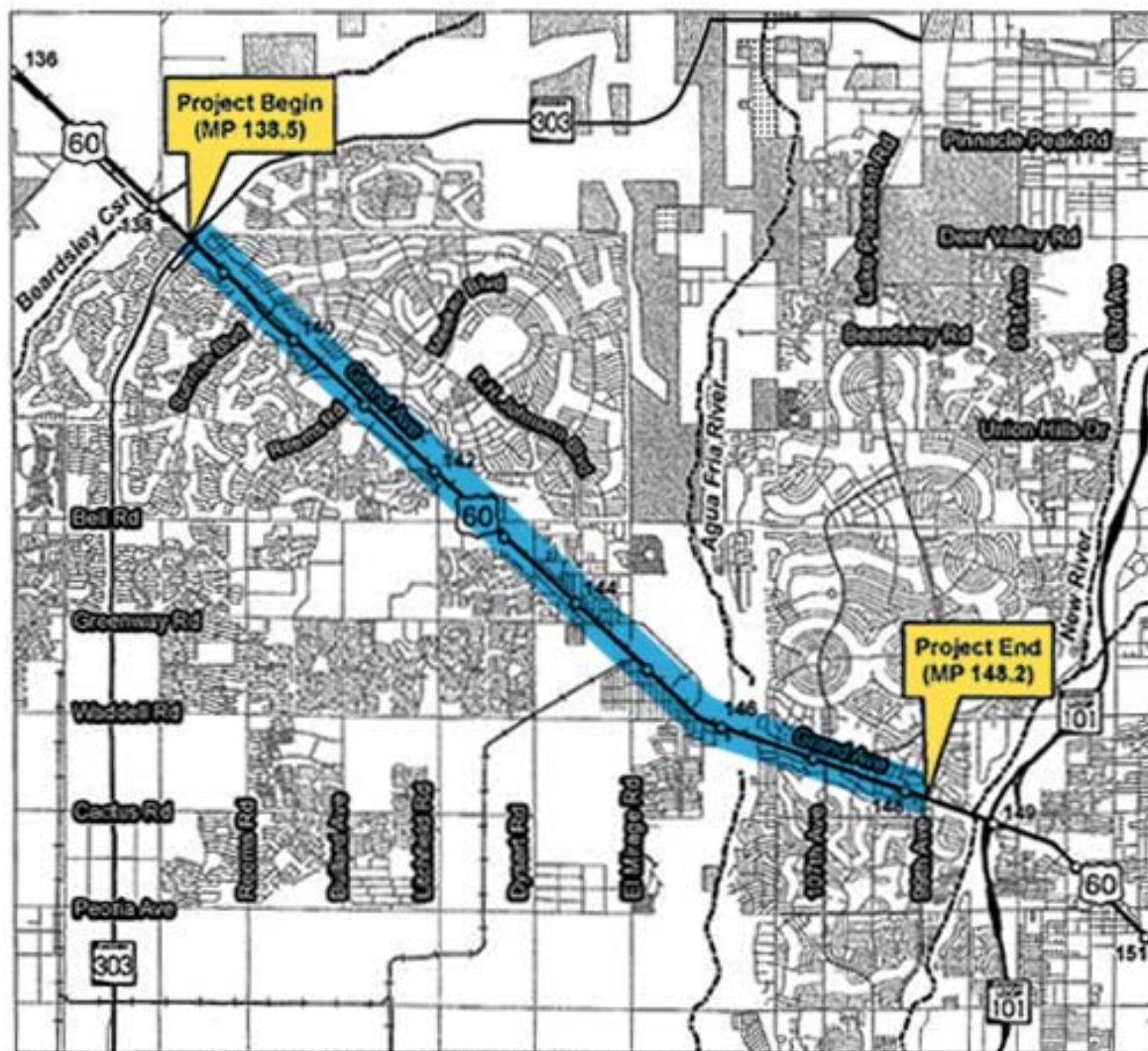
- Accommodate typical weekday traffic projections
 - 25,900 vehicles per day (west end) by 2010
 - 40,800 to 57,100 vehicles per day by 2025
- Improve traffic flow





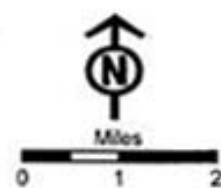
Scope of the Grand Avenue Widening Project

- Study design concepts to widen from current 4-lane to continuous 6-lane arterial street
- Investigate and document environmental impacts
- Recommend preferred design alternative



Source: Arizona Department of Transportation Arizona Transportation Information System 2004 Data.

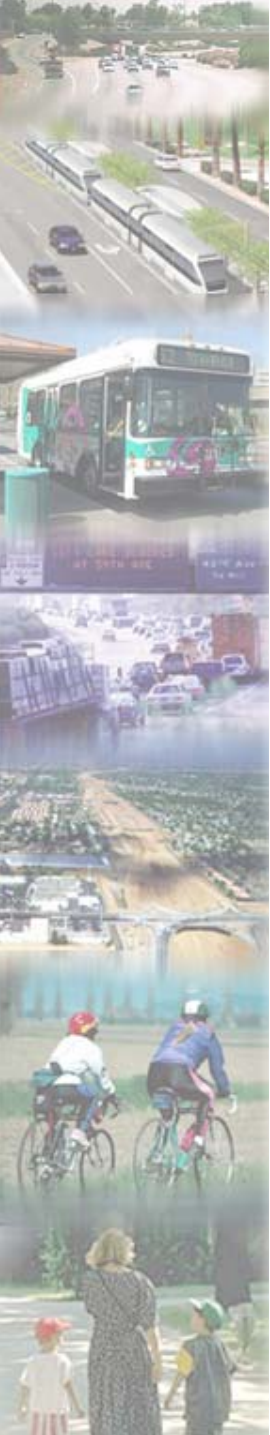
- Mileposts
- Private
- ▨ State Trust
- ▤ U.S. Bureau of Land Management





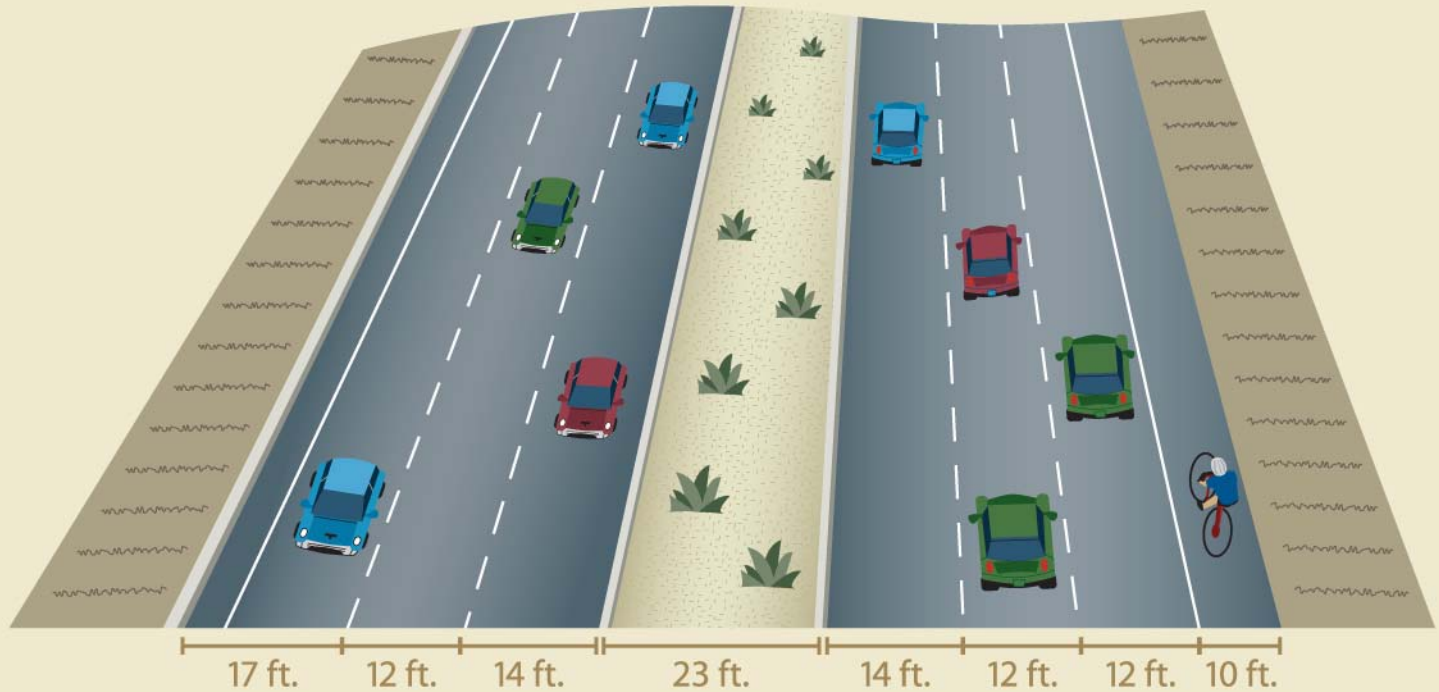
Analysis of Alternatives

- Studied four alternatives
 - Three options for widening from four to six lanes
 - Also studied “No Build” option
- Widening options varied in lane and shoulder widths
- Recommended alternative minimizes right-of-way impacts
 - Widening to occur primarily into median
 - No businesses will be displaced

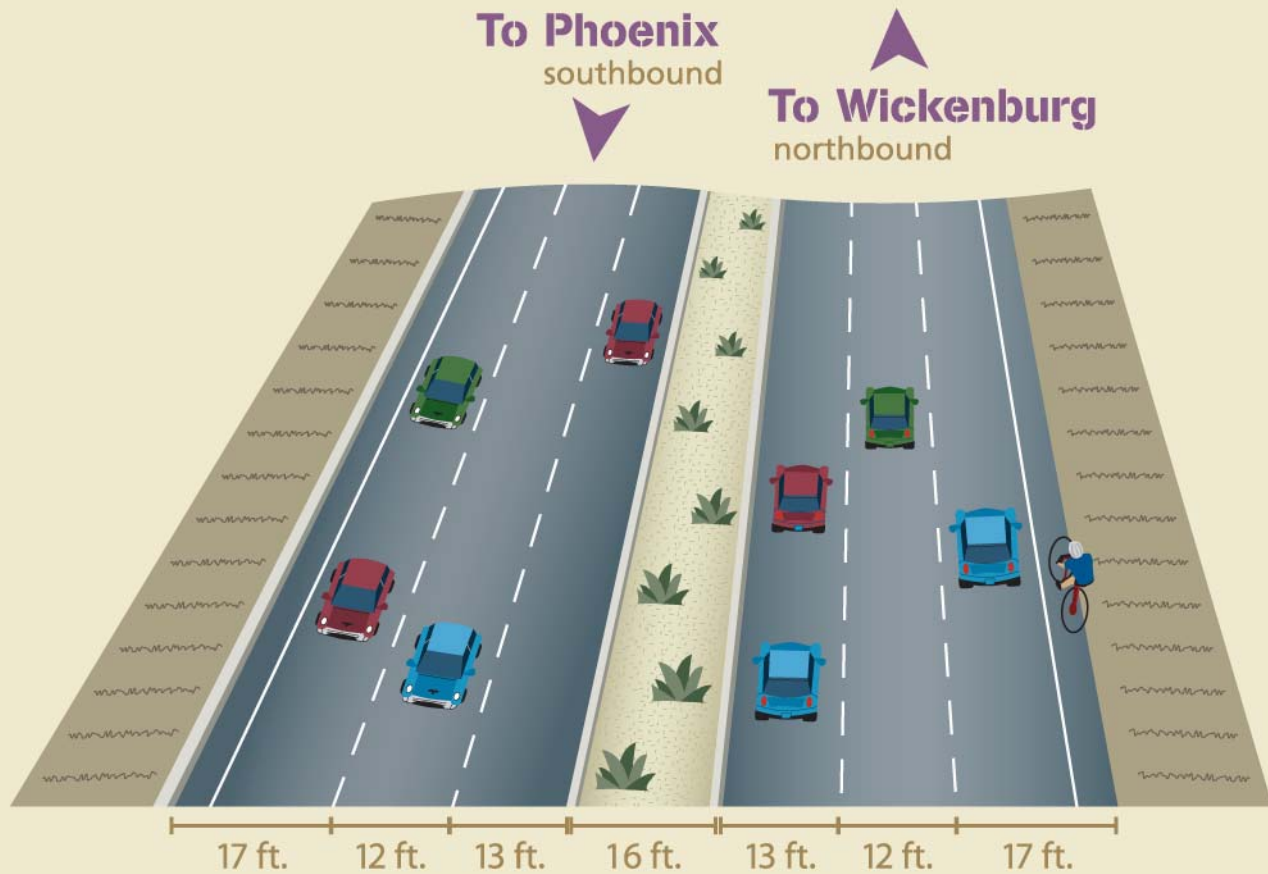
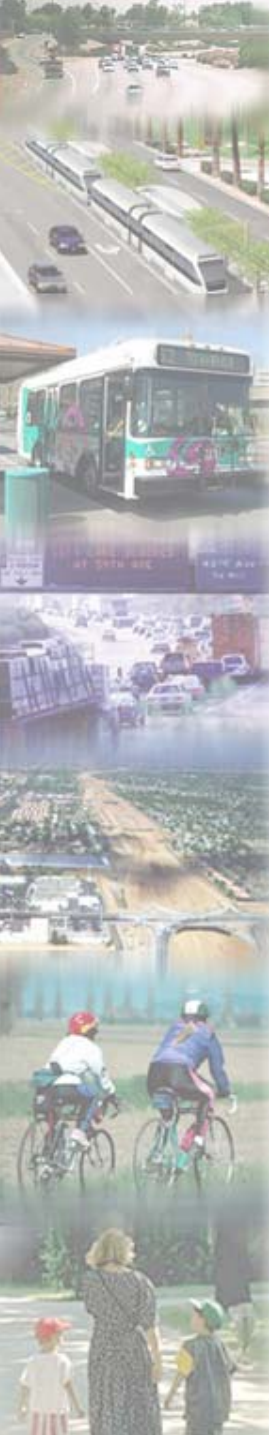


To Phoenix
southbound

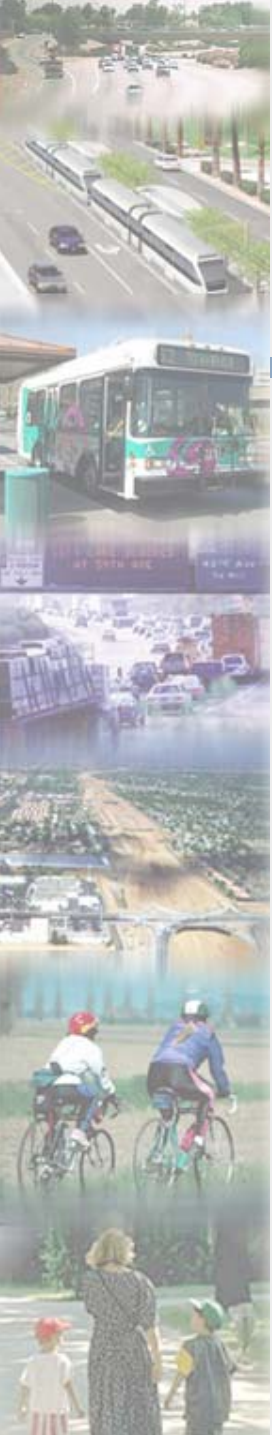
To Wickenburg
northbound



**Grand Avenue Improvements
North of Agua Fria River**

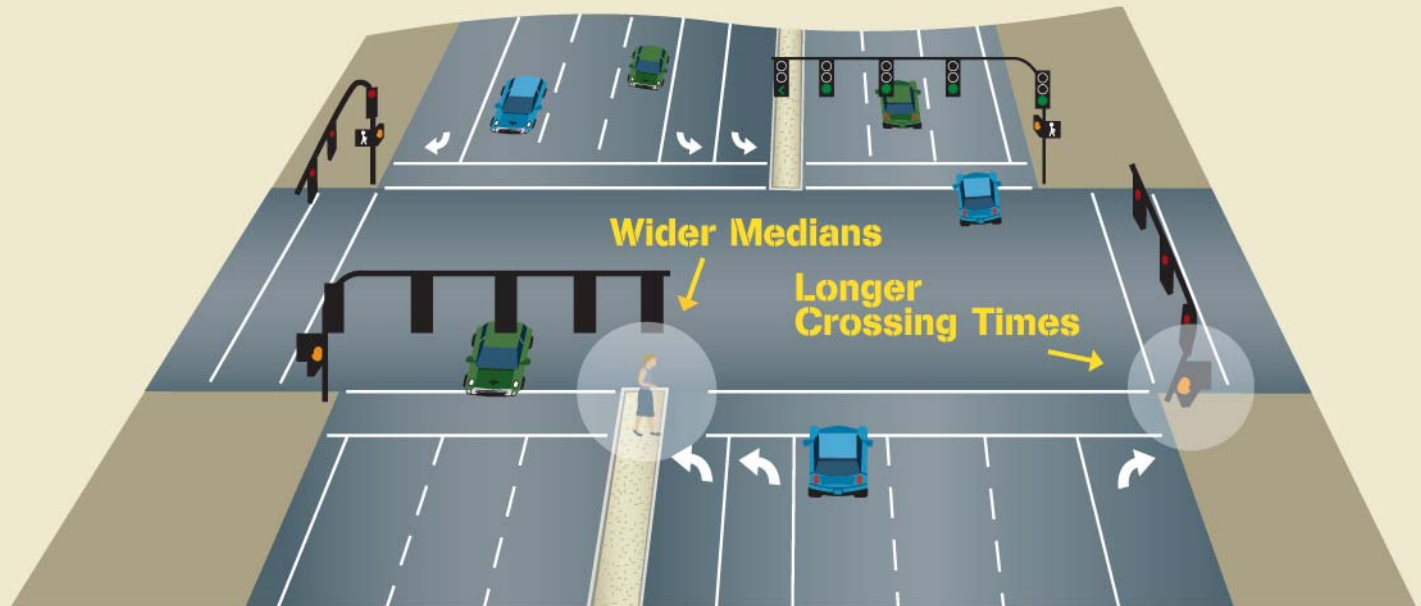
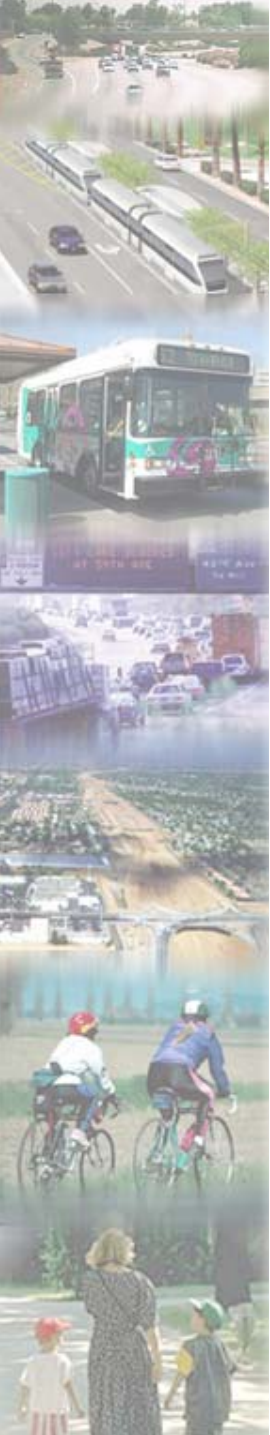


Grand Avenue Improvements South of Agua Fria River



Other Project Features

- Additional turn lanes
- Provision for “Shared Road Concept”
 - Right lane wide enough to accommodate bicycles
 - Striping for bicycle lanes up to local jurisdictions
- Pedestrian waiting areas
- Push buttons in medians to prompt signal changes
- Additional crossing time for pedestrians
- Signal synchronization
- Landscape designs to be developed in conjunction with local jurisdictions



Grand Avenue Intersection Improvements



Public Involvement to Date

- Newsletter/notice distributed to 8,000 residents and businesses – Oct. '05
- Agency Scoping Meeting – Nov. '05
- Public Scoping Meetings – Nov. '05 – Jan. '06
 - Sun City Grand HOA, City of Surprise
 - Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association
 - Sun City HOA Transportation Committee
 - West Point Town Center HOA, Surprise
 - Roseview HOA, Surprise
 - Rancho El Mirage HOA, El Mirage
- Sun City Working Group Meetings – June '06 and Oct. '06



Project Development

Grand Ave. Widening, Loop 303 to 99th Ave.
(Current Project)

Completion of Design
Concept Report and
Environmental Document
Dec. 2006

Complete Preliminary
Design to 30%
May 2007

Complete Final Design to
100%
Summer 2007 – Fall 2008

Construct Widening
Project
Early 2009 – Summer 2010

Feasibility Study of Grade Separations on Grand Ave.

Study to Begin in
Summer 2007

Construction of
Improvements Scheduled
for 2015



Questions, Concerns, Comments?

**24-Hour Project Hotline:
602-283-1195**

Para Español:
602-821-7019

Website Coming in Early 2007!